



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L76 (GATE-S)

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Gateway National Recreation Area  
210 New York Ave., Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

July 16, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) has made available for public and agency review the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Multi-Use Path, Phase 3 in the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. This project would extend the existing Multi-Use Path (MUP) to continue to provide safe and enjoyable nonmotorized use for pedestrians and bicyclists that was begun with the first two phases of the MUP.

NPS began developing the initial segments of the 12-foot wide MUP in 2000 to promote nonmotorized use of the park and create a safer environment for visitors. The first phase of the MUP, completed in 2004, was approximately 5.5 miles in length and provided nonmotorized access from Sandy Hook's entrance to the Fort Hancock ferry landing. The second phase, which was completed in 2008 and 2009, added approximately 3.1 miles of trail and created a loop between the North Beach Plaza, the Gunnison Beach Plaza, and the Mortar Battery at Fort Hancock. Although the existing MUP has improved safety within Sandy Hook for nonmotorized visitors, there are still areas where pedestrians and bicyclists must share the roads with motorized vehicles, creating potentially unsafe conditions. Phase 3 of the MUP would close these gaps in the existing trail system.

This EA examines three alternatives: a no action alternative (alternative A) and proposed improvements (alternatives B and C). Alternative B was identified as the NPS preferred alternative because it best meets the project's purpose of and need for action while protecting natural and cultural resources to the greatest extent practical. The preferred alternative (alternative B) would extend the existing MUP approximately 1.4 miles through the construction of three new segments. One segment would be constructed through the Nine Gun Battery; one segment would be constructed along the east side of Magruder Road, between the existing MUP near Guardian Park and the trail plaza at the Mortar Battery; and one segment would be constructed between the intersection of Magruder and Gunnison Roads and Gunnison Beach.

Your ongoing participation is very important to the success of this project. Please review this document and submit your comments by August 29, 2014. Written comments about the project may be submitted by posting them electronically at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gate>. You are also welcome to mail comments directly to:

Pete McCarthy, Coordinator  
Sandy Hook Unit  
Gateway National Recreation Area  
58 Magruder Road  
Fort Hancock, New Jersey 07732

If you have any questions regarding the project, or should need additional information, please feel free to contact Pete McCarthy by telephone at (732) 872-5913 or email ([Pete\\_McCarthy@nps.gov](mailto:Pete_McCarthy@nps.gov)). We thank you in advance for your attention and we appreciate your interest in Gateway National Recreation Area.

Sincerely,



Jennifer T. Nersesian  
Superintendent

cc: Darin Thacker, NPS-DSC  
Lee Terzis, NPS-DSC  
Pete McCarthy, NPS-GATE  
Kimberly Threlfall, VHB  
Deputy Superintendent, GATE  
Acting Chief, RMD-GATE  
Chief NRMD-GATE  
Chief CRMD-GATE

Enclosure:

Environmental Assessment for the Multi-Use Path, Phase 3, Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area